



The headline on the *Evening Capital* of Dec. 21, 1906, read, "The assault on a woman avenged — Davis dragged from jail and lynched — Mob riddled Negro ravisher with bullets."

1906 lynching cited in case to win pardon for Snowden

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A county official leading the effort to win posthumous clemency for John Snowden, the last man hanged in Annapolis, has turned up information about a 1906 lynching as further proof of the hostile racist atmosphere that permeated those times and this place.

Carl O. Snowden, a legislative aide to County Executive Janet S. Owens and a former alderman, has forwarded his research to the Maryland Parole Board as part of his appeal to clear Snowden.

The two men are not related.

In 1918, county officials cited the

lynching for moving to Baltimore Snowden's trial for brutally raping and killing a pregnant white woman. Snowden was African-American.

Four days before Christmas 1906, a mob had broken into the county jail, dragged out an African-American man who allegedly confessed to assaulting a white woman, then hanged him on the banks of College Creek.

"This incident is indicative of the the racial climate people had to endure," Mr. Snowden told the Almost 7:30 Friday Morning Democratic Breakfast Club in Annapolis yesterday. "This was a catalyst for what happened to John Snowden years later."

He hopes the story will not only help exonerate the man — put to death despite last-minute appeals from

clergy, witnesses recanting their testimony, and 11 of 12 jurors pleading for clemency — but be used as an educational opportunity.

"For those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," he said.

The lynch mob on Dec. 21, 1906, rendezvoused in back of St. John's College, prepared disguises and then attacked the jailhouse door — with first a hitching rail wrenched from the building, then a sledge and pick swiped from a nearby blacksmith shop.

Once inside the Calvert Street jail, they found their victim, Henry Davis, who had confessed to assaulting a white woman, Mrs. John Reid, as she

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